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Appendix A

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) An oral solid active compound unit comprising a microsphere, the microsphere comprising:

a matrix comprising a mixture of at least one fatty alcohol and at least one solid paraffin; and

an acid-labile active compound selected from the group consisting of substituted pyridin-2-yl-methylsulfinyl-1H-benzimidazoles, substituted phenylmethylsulfinyl-1H-benzimidazoles, substituted cycloheptapyridin-9-ylsulfinyl-1H-benzimidazoles, and substituted pyridin-2-ylmethylsulfinylthienoimidazoles and may be present as a chiral compound, a pure enantiomer, or a mixture thereof in any mixing ratio, or in the form of its salt with a base, or in the form of a hydrate of its salt with a base ~~an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor, a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base, and a hydrate of a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base~~,

wherein said acid-labile active compound is present in said matrix, and

wherein the microsphere does not comprise an enteric coating.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the matrix further comprises one or more excipients selected from the group consisting of polymers, sterols and basic compounds.

14. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the active compound present is an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor.

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A process for the production of an oral solid active compound unit in the form of a microsphere comprising an acid-labile active compound, where the acid-labile active compound is selected from the group consisting of an substituted pyridin-2-yl-methylsulfinyl-1H-benzimidazoles, substituted phenylmethylsulfinyl-1H-benzimidazoles, substituted cycloheptapyridin-9-ylsulfinyl-1H-benzimidazoles, and substituted pyridin-2-ylmethylsulfinylthienoimidazoles and may be present as a chiral compound, a pure enantiomer, or a mixture thereof in any mixing ratio, or in the form of its salt with a base, or in the form of a hydrate of its salt with a base ~~acid-labile proton pump inhibitor, a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base, and a hydrate of a salt of an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor with a base~~, and is present in the microsphere in a matrix made of a mixture comprising at least one fatty alcohol and at least one solid paraffin, [[,]] comprising the following steps:

a. preparing a solution or dispersion of the acid-labile active compound in the fatty alcohol and paraffin;

b. prilling the solution or dispersion prepared in step (a) and obtaining drops of the solution or dispersion; and

c. solidifying the drops obtained in step (b) in a suitable medium,

wherein the microsphere does not comprise an enteric coating.

19. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 18, where the prilling is carried out by means of vibrating nozzles, wherein the solution or dispersion which flows to the nozzle is kept at a constant temperature, and wherein the solidification of the drops takes place in a suitable cooling medium after stabilization thereof by sudden quenching.

20. (Previously presented) An oral solid microsphere prepared by the process as claimed in claim 18.

21. – 32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the substituted pyridin-2-yl-methylsulfinyl-1H-benzimidazoles is an acid-labile proton pump inhibitor that is selected from the group consisting of omeprazole, pantoprazole, lansoprazole and rabeprazole.

34. (Currently amended) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid-labile active compound ~~proton pump inhibitor~~ is pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate, (-)-pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate, omeprazole magnesium, omeprazole, esomeprazole magnesium or esomeprazole.

35. (Currently amended) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid-labile active compound ~~proton pump inhibitor~~ is a pure enantiomer.

36. (Currently amended) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid-labile active compound ~~proton pump inhibitor~~ is esomeprazole or (-)-pantoprazole.

37. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the microsphere has a particle size range of 50-600 µm.

38. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the microsphere has a particle size range of 50-400 µm.

39. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 38, wherein the microsphere is a monomodal microsphere.

40. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the microsphere has a particle size range of 50-200 μm.

41. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fatty alcohol is selected from the group consisting of cetyl alcohol, myristyl alcohol, lauryl alcohol, stearyl alcohol and mixtures thereof.

42-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the solid paraffin is paraffinum solidum or ozocerite.

45-49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid-labile active compound is 1-90% by weight of the oral solid active compound unit.

51. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 50, wherein the acid-labile active compound is 2-70% by weight of the oral solid active compound unit.

52. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 50, wherein the acid-labile active compound is 5-40% by weight of the oral solid active compound unit.

53. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 50, wherein the acid-labile active compound is 10-20% by weight of the oral solid active compound unit.

54. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fatty alcohol is 10-70% by weight of the oral solid active compound unit.

55. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 54, wherein the fatty alcohol is 20-70% by weight of the oral solid active compound unit.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 54, wherein the fatty alcohol is 30-60% by weight of the oral solid active compound unit.

58. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the solid paraffin is 10-70% by weight of the oral solid active compound unit.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously presented) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 59, wherein the solid paraffin is 30-60% by weight of the oral solid active compound unit.

61. (New) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the at least one fatty alcohol is a linear, saturated or unsaturated primary alcohol having 10-30 carbon atoms.

62. (New) The oral solid active compound unit as claimed in claim 18, wherein the at least one fatty alcohol is a linear, saturated or unsaturated primary alcohol having 10-30 carbon atoms.